

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0306

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, GW, UR
SUBJECT: EAST BERLIN VERORDNUNGSBLATT PROCEDURE

REF: USBERLIN 263

1. SEPTEL REPORTS STATUS OF ISSUE AMONG BERLIN MISSIONS.
SPEARATE CONVERSATIONS JAN 27 BETWEEN STATE
SECRETARY SPNGENBERG, TAGESSPIEGEL'S BOELKE AND
VISITING BONN POLITICAL COUNSELOR SMYER AND US DEPUTY
POLAD SEMLER PROVIDE VERY PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS OF
EVOLVING GERMAN THINKING ON ISSUE.

2. BOTH SPANGENBERG AND BOELKE WERE NOT CONVINCED BUT
WERE VERY FEARFUL THAT APPEARANCE OF REPRINT OF NEPS--
BADSAG PIECE IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND JAN 25 MENAT THAT
GDR HAD DECIDED NOT TO RESUME PUBLICATION OF VERORDNUNGS-
BLATT AND HENCE TO DISMANTLE UEBERNAHME PROCEDURE. BOTH
THOUGHT IT CONCEIVABLE THAT BERORDNUNGSBLATT MIGHT
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JUST REAPPEAR INASMUCH AS REPRITN FROM FOREING COMMUNIST
NEWSPAPER MIGHT NOTREFLECT FINAL STEP IN GDR DECISION-
MAKING PROCESS.

3. PSANGENBERG SAID THAT IF VERORDNUNGSBLATT WRE
DISCONTINUED, IMPORTANT CHANGE IN STATUS OF BERLIN
THEREBY ENACTED WOULD BE VERY SERIOUS MATTER. IT

WOULD THEN BE TIME TO REVIEW RIGHTS OF BERLIN BUNDES-TAG DEPUTIES AND METHOD OF ELECTION OF BERLIN DEPUTIES IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. ANOTHER POSSIBLE MEASURE WHICH HE PERSONALLY OPPOSED BUT WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY BE CONSIDERED WOULD BE TO REQUEST FRESH FORU-POWER CONSULTATIONS ON QA IN LIGHT OF UNILATERAL EASTERN VIOLATION. SPANGENBERG REMARKED THAT HE PERSONALLY COULD NOT SEE ANYTHING COMING FROM SUCH CONSULTATIONS EXCEPT A SOVIET ATTACK ON SOME OTHER ASPECT, PERHAPS THE AIR REGIME, OF THE EXISTING SITUATION.

4. AT LUNCH TAGESSPEIGEL'S BOELKE TOLD AMERICAN INTERLOCUTORS THAT HIS CONVERSATIONS IN SENAT WITH SENATOR STOBBE AND OTHERS HAD REVEALED GROWING SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF A STRONG WESTERN REACTION TO GDR MOVES TO UNDERMINE THE QA. HE MENTIONED AS AN EXAMPLE REVIEW OF WHETHER THE TIME HAD NOT COME TO RECONSIDER IDEA OF GLOBALGESETZ (SEE REFTEL PARA 1), AS A REPLACEMENT FOR MANTELGESETZ PROCEDURE NOW USED IN WEST BERLIN.

5. ABOVE CONVERSATIONS HIGHLIGHT WHAT WE REGARD AS INCREASING EVIDENCE THAT GERMANS INVOLVED IN BERLIN ARE MOVING TOWARDS BELIEF THAT GDR TACTICS MUST BE ANSWERED. WE RECONGNIZE THAT FOR SOME GERMANS (BOELKE MENTIONED EGON BAHR IN THIS RESPECT, HAVING SPOKEN TO BAHR ON MONDAY) ALTERNATIVE TO COUNTER-MEASURES MIGHT BE TO TRY TO PUT INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS AGAIN INTO DYNAMIC, I.E. TREATY-CONCLUDING

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PHASE. AS ADDITIONAL INDICATION OF WAY WIND IS BLOWING, WE THROW IN FACT THAT BRITISH MISSION IN BERLIN IS TOYING WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT QA CONSULTATIONS BE RESUMED IF SERIOUS BREACH OF BERLIN REGIME INVOLVED IN DISCONTINUANCE OF VERORDNUNGSBLATT IS CONFIRMED. DAVIS

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